GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Reports on the Working of the District Boards.

READ—

The reports on the working of the District Boards in the State during the year 1928-29, received from the Presidents of the several District Boards.

ORDER NO. L. 8127-47—L. B. 92-29-19, DATED 9TH MAY 1930.

Recorded.

2. *Composition of District Boards.*—There were eight District Boards in existence during the year, with 270 members in all against the sanctioned strength of 273 members. Of these, 17 were officers and 253 non-officials, of whom 183 were elected. All the Boards with the exception of the Shimoga District Board held the prescribed number of meetings. The Boards met on an average 4·4 times in the year and the average attendance at the meetings was 1·7 officers and 25·2 non-officials or 26·9 in all, against an average strength of 34 members per District Board. The attendance of both the official and non-official members was on the whole satisfactory. During the year under review, the District Boards' Regulation was amended removing the disqualification of persons of the female sex from standing for elections to the District Boards.

3. *Presidents and Vice-Presidents of District Boards.*—All the District Boards had non-official elected Vice-Presidents. The District Boards of Bangalore, Kolar and Hassan continued to have elected non-official Presidents, while the Deputy Commissioners continued to be *ex-officio* Presidents of the remaining District Boards. Orders have since issued, throwing open to election the office of Presidents of these District Boards also.

4. *Committees.*—All the District Boards had Standing Committees appointed under Section 31 of the District Boards Regulation and these Committees held meetings in all the Districts. The largest number of meetings held was 6 in the Mysore District and the lowest was 1 in the Chitaldrug District. The average attendance ranged from 6·5 in the Kadur District to 3·76 in the Kolar District. In the Bangalore District, the Committee is said to have scrutinised the Budget in detail and to have helped in several matters and thus facilitated the work of the District Board. Economic Committees were constituted in all the District Boards except Bangalore, Kolar and Chitaldrug. They met 5 times in the Mysore District, 4 times in the Tumkur District and only once in the other Districts. The average attendance ranged from 10 in Kadur District to 6 in the Hassan District. Health and Education Committees were constituted in the Mysore and Hassan Districts. The Health Committee met 4 times in the Mysore District with an average attendance of 8·4 members but no meetings were held in the Hassan District. No details have been furnished about the working of the Education Committees in the two Districts. Other Special Committees are also said to have been constituted for various matters such as the preparation of schedule of rates of taxes in the Bangalore District, for drafting Bye-laws, for prevention of epidemics in the Tumkur District for organising Cattle shows in the Hassan District, for scrutinising the Railway Scheme in the Kadur District and for checking the budget in the Chitaldrug District.

5. *Finance.*—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 8,71,257 in favour of the District Boards as a whole. Their income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 30,68,468 and Rs. 30,84,277 against Rs. 34,00,535 and Rs. 37,07,967 respectively, in the previous year. The income and expenditure under ordinary heads amounted to Rs. 14,70,937 and Rs. 16,77,198 respectively. The closing balance at the credit of the District Boards amounted to Rs. 8,55,448. All the District Boards except Hassan had the prescribed minimum closing balance of one-eighth of their receipts.

6. *Receipt—Local Cess.*—The income amounted to Rs. 9,20,256 against Rs. 8,91,032 in the previous year, the increase being said to be due to better collection of Land Revenue.

Tolls.—The income rose from Rs. 77,868 to Rs. 1,54,264 due to the establishment of additional toll-gates in accordance with the recommendations of a Committee constituted for the purpose.

Markets.—The income was Rs. 79,935 against Rs. 79,293 during the previous year. The highest income was Rs. 25,146 in the Bangalore District and the lowest Rs. 1,802 in the Chitaldrug District, while there was no income in the Tumkur and Kadur Districts as in the previous year.

Permit fees on motor vehicles.—An income of Rs. 33,048 is said to have been realised from permit fees on motor vehicles under the Motor Vehicles Rules in the Bangalore, Tumkur, Hassan and Shimoga Districts, against Rs. 66,033 in the previous year and no specific reasons have been adduced for the fall in the revenue. This requires investigation. In spite of the observations made in para 4 of Government Order No. L. 8239-62—L.B. 92-28-22, dated 8th June 1929, it is reported that the fees due to the Bangalore District Board for the years 1925-26 and 1926-27, have not yet been adjusted by the District Magistrate. Very early steps should be taken to adjust the amount.

7. *Expenditure.—Public Works.*—An expenditure of Rs. 7,18,036 was incurred on Public Works executed by the Public Works Department against Rs. 6,41,242 incurred in the previous year. The major portion of the expenditure was as usual incurred on annual and special repairs to roads. Several new road and bridge works were undertaken during the year as also the construction of the Silver Jubilee Building at Chikmagalur for locating the Kadur District Board Office. The expenditure exceeded the budget grant in the Districts of Bangalore, Kolar and Chitaldrug, while in the other Districts out of a total budget allotment of Rs. 7,73,625 a sum of Rs. 96,732 or 12·5 per cent was allowed to lapse, more than half the sanctioned amount having lapsed in the Kadur District. The lapse in the Hassan District has been explained. It is hoped that such heavy lapses will be avoided in future by following a well laid out programme of works. The District Board of Shimoga received a grant of Rs. 35,000 from the Irrigation Cess Fund and an outlay of Rs. 36,518 was incurred against the grant. The District Board roads are reported to have been maintained in a fairly good condition. A steam roller was purchased at a cost of Rs. 7,000 in the Shimoga District. The question of earmarking for the maintenance of roads, the income from tolls and fees levied under Motor Vehicles Rules remained undecided for want of replies from some of the District Boards. It is incumbent on District Boards to improve and properly maintain their roads and they should not devote for other purposes income of the kind referred to above specifically raised for expenditure on roads.

8. *Public Works carried by Civil Departments.*—A sum of Rs. 2,59,642 was spent on Public Works executed by the Civil Department against Rs. 1,79,456 in the previous year. The expenditure in the Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts exceeded the budget allotment while in the other Districts out of the budget allotment of Rs. 4,99,336, Rs. 2,50,926 or 50·2 per cent was allowed to lapse. Out of this amount Rs. 1,81,156 lapsed in the Mysore District on account of the provision of Rs. 1,75,000 made for the District Board quota of the cost of construction of a bridge across the Cauvery in the T.-Narsipur Taluk not having been utilised during the year, the amount being merged in the closing balance. In the Tumkur District also there was a large lapse of Rs. 30,927 due to a provision of Rs. 20,000 made for the construction of the District Board Building not having been utilised.

9. *Railways.*—As in the previous years, Railway Cess was levied in all the Districts except Bangalore and Hassan, the realizations in the Tumkur, Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts being accumulated for construction of Railways in the respective Districts. The total amount of cess collected in these Districts during the year was Rs. 3,02,132 and the amount of cess accumulated in the several Districts are as noted in the margin. The Kolar District Board Railway continued to be worked by Government agency and the net income amounted to Rs. 28,071 against Rs. 36,534 during the previous year, the fall in the income being due to the deduction of Rs. 17,952 towards the guaranteed interest on the Railway

District		Amount Rs.	
Kolar	...	3,656	on 30th June 1929.
Tumkur	...	6,49,075	on 31st October 1929.
Mysore	...	1,06,659	on 30th June 1929.
Shimoga	...	56,414	Do
Kadur	...	7,04,397	Do
Chitaldrug	...	6,88,160	Do

loan. The Kolar District Board has been authorised to reduce the Debenture Loan raised by them for the Railway by the sale of their Government of India Securities of the face value of Rs. 3 lakhs and a sum of Rs. 17,100 is now said to have been redeemed so far out of the loan of Rs. 4,48,000 raised by them for the Railway. In the Mysore District, the Nanjangud-Chamrajnagar Railway was also worked by Government agency and the District Board got a net income of Rs. 29,983 against Rs. 30,296 in the previous year, being 30 per cent of the gross income from the Railway payable to the Board. A sum of Rs. 31,000 was paid by the Board towards the Sinking Fund and Rs. 51,998 towards interest on the debenture loan of Rs. 8 lakhs raised by the Board for the Railway. The amount set apart to the sinking fund for discharging the loan amounted to Rs. 1,28,030 (including interest) at the end of the year. The survey of the Bangalore-Hosur Railway has been completed, but Government have decided to defer the project till a decision is arrived at about the southern connection from Mysore *via* Chamrajnagar. The surveys of Railway lines from Chamrajnagar to Mysore frontier and Chamrajnagar to Kollegal have been completed and the construction of the Chamrajnagar Kollegal Metre Gauge Railway line is at present engaging the attention of Government. An up-to-date Traffic prospects of a Metre Gauge Railway line from Hosa-agrahar to Coorg is being investigated at present. The project for the construction of the Railway line from Kadur to Chikmagalur was again urged by the Kadur District Board. After a detailed examination of the project, Government have decided to put it off till the Bangalore-Harihar line is handed over to the State for management. The construction of a line from Mangalore to Hassan has been urged by the Hassan District Board. The project has been found to be not remunerative but a railway connection with the West Coast may perhaps have to be considered sooner or later. In the Chitaldrug District, the traffic prospects of a railway between Tumkur and Chitaldrug and Davangere and Kottur, *via.*, Jagalur were completed but as the result showed that the scheme would result in annual losses, Government were not in favour of the lines. The Board have however addressed the Railway Department to investigate the traffic prospect of a line from Chitaldrug to Challakere and on to Raydrug.

10. *Medical Relief.*—One hundred and seventy-two Local Fund Dispensaries, 131 Vaidyasalas and 156 Midwives were maintained in whole or in part out of District Funds. Eleven new Dispensaries were opened during the year, five in the Tumkur District and three in each of the Districts of Mysore and Chitaldrug. Local Fund Dispensaries on reduced scales of expenditure were also opened at Bagur in the Bangalore Taluk, Bilikere in the Mysore District and Rampur in the Chitaldrug District. In the Hassan District five new dispensaries were also opened out of Malnad Improvement Funds. In the Bangalore District, a Leper Out-Patients Dispensary was started in Bangalore City and an operation room was added to the Dispensary at Solur. The Srimati Narasamma Maternity Home and Hospital for Women and Children at Hole-Narsipur donated by Rao Sahib K. Ramaswamiah of Bombay in memory of his mother, was completed and it was opened by His Highness the Maharaja in January last. The construction of a building for the General Hospital and Maternity at Hassan at a cost of more than one lakh of rupees was sanctioned by Government and the Foundation Stone of the building was laid by His Highness the Maharaja.

Rural Dispensaries were opened during the year at Hodigere in the Channagiri Taluk, Kodigerehalli in the Madhugiri Taluk and at three places in the Mysore District in addition to five institutions already existing. Two dispensaries were sanctioned for the Kolar District but only one was opened during the year. The Dispensaries proposed to be opened at Bukkapatna in the Tumkur District and at Yegati and Chavalmane in the Kadur District could not be opened for want of trained hands. The President of the Chitaldrug District Board has made certain suggestions to the Senior Surgeon about the construction of cheap buildings to suit the requirements of Rural Dispensaries and Government will be glad to know the result of the proposals. Vaidyasalas were newly opened during the year at Bevinahalli in the Sira Taluk, Nilsoga, Mallur and Besaganahalli in the Mysore District, Jinnapura in the Kadur District and Srirampura in Hosdurga Taluk. The Vaidyasala at Kodigenahalli in the Tumkur District was abolished and a rural dispensary was opened in the place.

11. *Vaccination.* One lakh forty-six thousand seven hundred and nineteen persons were vaccinated during the year against 1,27,578 persons in the previous year. In most of the Districts, vaccination work was placed under the control of the District Health Officer, as a result of which better supervision was exercised. Additional vaccinators were entertained in the Bangalore and Tumkur Districts and better results achieved in the Districts. In the Kolar District it is stated that the vaccination work in the interior is capable of considerable improvement and it is suggested that an improvement could be effected only by making vaccination compulsory. The District Board should take necessary action in the matter. The vaccination work in the Harihar Sub-Taluk and the Molakalmuru and Jagalur Taluks was very unsatisfactory and should be improved. There was some dearth in the supply of lymph from the Vaccine Institute at Bangalore but arrangements have since been made for improving the quality of the lymph and for supplying the same in sufficient quantities locally so that there may be no need to indent for a supply from outside the State. The question of making vaccination compulsory in the State is under the active consideration of Government.

12. *Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries.*—There were 49 institutions in the several Districts working during the year out of which 5 were newly opened, one in each of the Districts of Bangalore, Tumkur, Mysore, Hassan and Chitaldrug. Several new dispensaries sanctioned could not be opened during the year for want of accommodation and trained men to take charge of them. Excluding the Kolar and Shimoga Districts for which no information is furnished, 1,88,401 cases were treated in 35 institutions against, 1,03,302 cases in the previous year, excluding the Bangalore District. A large number of cattle were also inoculated in the several Districts against Rinderpest, Anthrax, etc. Government are glad to note that these institutions are becoming more and more popular every year. The Mysore District Board has under consideration a scheme for training local people in detection and treatment of cattle diseases and for the grant of scholarships to students to undergo training in this subject.

13. *Vital Statistics.*—Ninety-seven thousand six hundred and seventeen births and 70,787 deaths were registered during the year against 87,419 and 75,723, respectively, in the previous year. The largest number of deaths was 31,868, from Malarial fevers. The deaths from cholera were normal being 371 against 321 in the previous year but the mortality under small-pox and plague increased during the year from 1,552 and 2,722 in the previous year to 5,979 and 4,219 respectively. The large increase in the number of deaths from these two diseases is said to be due to their prevalence in an epidemic form in some of the Districts. Necessary precautionary measures are however said to have been adopted for preventing the spread of the diseases and arresting their progress. Special attention is said to have been paid to the correct preparation of statistics of births and deaths in the Shimoga District. The statistics furnished by the Bangalore and Hassan Districts are said to be only approximate, as it was very difficult to get correct statistics. Certain proposals have been made by the Bangalore and Hassan District Boards for improving the statistics and the Presidents of the District Boards are requested to submit separate references on the subject for orders of Government. It is very desirable to enlist the active co-operation of Village Panchayets in this matter.

14. *Rural Water Supply.*—In spite of the observation made in the review of the previous year under this head no information about the works taken up and the expenditure incurred thereon, etc., has been furnished in the case of the Kolar District and the details furnished are not complete in the case of the Shimoga and Chitaldrug Districts. From information available, it is found that the largest number of works completed was 68 in the Mysore District and the lowest 4 in the Tumkur District. In the Hassan District, 148 works are said to have been in progress during the year out of which 8 wells were completed, the total outlay incurred being Rs. 19,550. In the Shimoga District, 8 new works are said to have been sanctioned and a sum of Rs. 4,395 spent on these works. In the Chitaldrug District 60 fresh works are said to have been sanctioned during the year and an outlay of Rs. 30,991 incurred for these works out of which 54 related to guinea worm affected villages. It is reported that there are still a large number of villages in the District to be provided with good Drinking Water Wells for which a grant of Rs. 30,000 has been applied for. The President of the Kolar District Board is requested to furnish necessary details in the future reports.

15. *Audit of Accounts.*—The accounts of all the District Boards for the year 1927-28 were audited by the Local Audit Staff of the Comptroller's Office and no serious irregularities have been brought to notice. The Standing Committees audited the Boards' Accounts and scrutinised the budgets in the Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts. Government trust that Standing Committees of the other District Boards would regularly audit the accounts of those District Boards also in future.

16. *Miscellaneous.*—Government regret that in spite of the instructions issued in para 14 of Government Order No. L. 8239-62—L. B. 92-28-22, dated 8th June 1929, the reports for this year also were not sent up to Government in time except those of Hassan and Kolar. The appendices accompanying the reports were not also complete in most of the cases. The Presidents of the District Boards are once again requested to make proper arrangements for the prompt submission of correct reports and appendices.

District and Taluk Conferences were held in the several Districts and a Child Welfare and Health Exhibition was also held as an adjunct to the District Conference at Tumkur. The Second Sericultural Conference was held at Chintamani in May 1929 just before the District Conference. A Health Exhibition was also held in the Shimoga District with the District Conference and special propagandist work is said to have been carried on with the several District Conferences, cattle shows and jatras by way of Magic Lantern Lectures and Exhibitions, etc., relating to maternity, child welfare, malaria, epidemic diseases, sanitation, education, etc. The Scout Movement was encouraged by all the District Boards and special Scout meetings and rallies were held in the several Districts with contributions from the District Boards. Scholarships for studies of Ayurvedic and Unani medicines, Agriculture, Sericulture, Fine Arts, etc., were granted by the several District Boards and special attention was also devoted to Economic Development on different lines.

17. *Conclusion.*—Government are glad to note that the administration of the District Boards continued to be satisfactory during the year under review and that the non-official members fully co-operated with the official members in the working of the several Boards. Government have extended the privilege of electing their Presidents to all District Boards with effect from the reconstitution of the present Boards and they hope that this step will serve as incentive for further improvements in the working of the District Boards.

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General Secretary to Government.